



FEMA

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Issued: 0800 CT

Day 1 Weather Threats: Critical Fire Weather conditions across E NM, TX/OK Panhandles, Upper Trans-Pecos & W OK.

Moderate to major flooding continues with rivers on the rise on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River in LA and SE AR.

Minor to moderate flooding continues with rivers receding in E TX, NW LA and S & NE AR.

National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX



Prepared by: Felecia Bowser
817-978-1100 x 147

Key Points



Today through Sunday

- **Critical Fire Weather conditions across E NM, TX and OK Panhandles, Upper Trans-Pecos and W OK TODAY expanding into the Guadalupe Mountains and east OK TOMORROW and SUNDAY.**
- **Slight Risk of severe thunderstorms possible across N LA and SE AR TOMORROW – hail, damaging winds and isolated tornadoes will be the main threats.**
- **Strong Thunderstorms will be possible across NE TX, SE OK, S AR and N LA – hail will be the main threat.**

Monday

- **Elevated Fire Weather conditions may occur across portions of the TX and OK Panhandles and W OK.**

River Flood Status

- **The Mississippi River is near crest at Arkansas City, AR (43 ft.) and Greenville, MS (55 ft.). Impacts of these crests would include: water may begin to approach structures, all areas of levees are flooded, approximately 50 buildings have water inside of them and electric power is turned off to north and south Lake Ferguson Road and Hillman-Logan Road.**
- **The Atchafalaya River continues to rise. The crest at Morgan City is expected to reach 8.0 ft. (moderate Flood Stage) on March 23rd. Impacts would include: Structures on the river side of protection walls in Morgan City will be under water. River traffic restrictions may be imposed.**
- **Moderate to major flooding continues with rivers on the rise on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River in LA and SE AR.**
- **Minor to moderate flooding continues with rivers receding in E TX, NW LA and S & NE AR.**

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Mar 15, 2018 - Mar 19, 2018

DAY / THREAT	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
Severe Storms		N LA, SE AR			
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding					
Fire Weather	E NM / TX/OK Panhandles / Upper Trans-Pecos/ W OK	E NM / TX/OK Panhandles / W&Cntrl OK / W TX	E NM, portions of TX & OK Panhandles/Upper Trans-Pecos	E NM / TX/OK Panhandles / W&Cntrl OK / South Plains	
Winter					
River Flooding	E & S AR, N, E & SE LA				
	E TX, LA, AR				

	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.



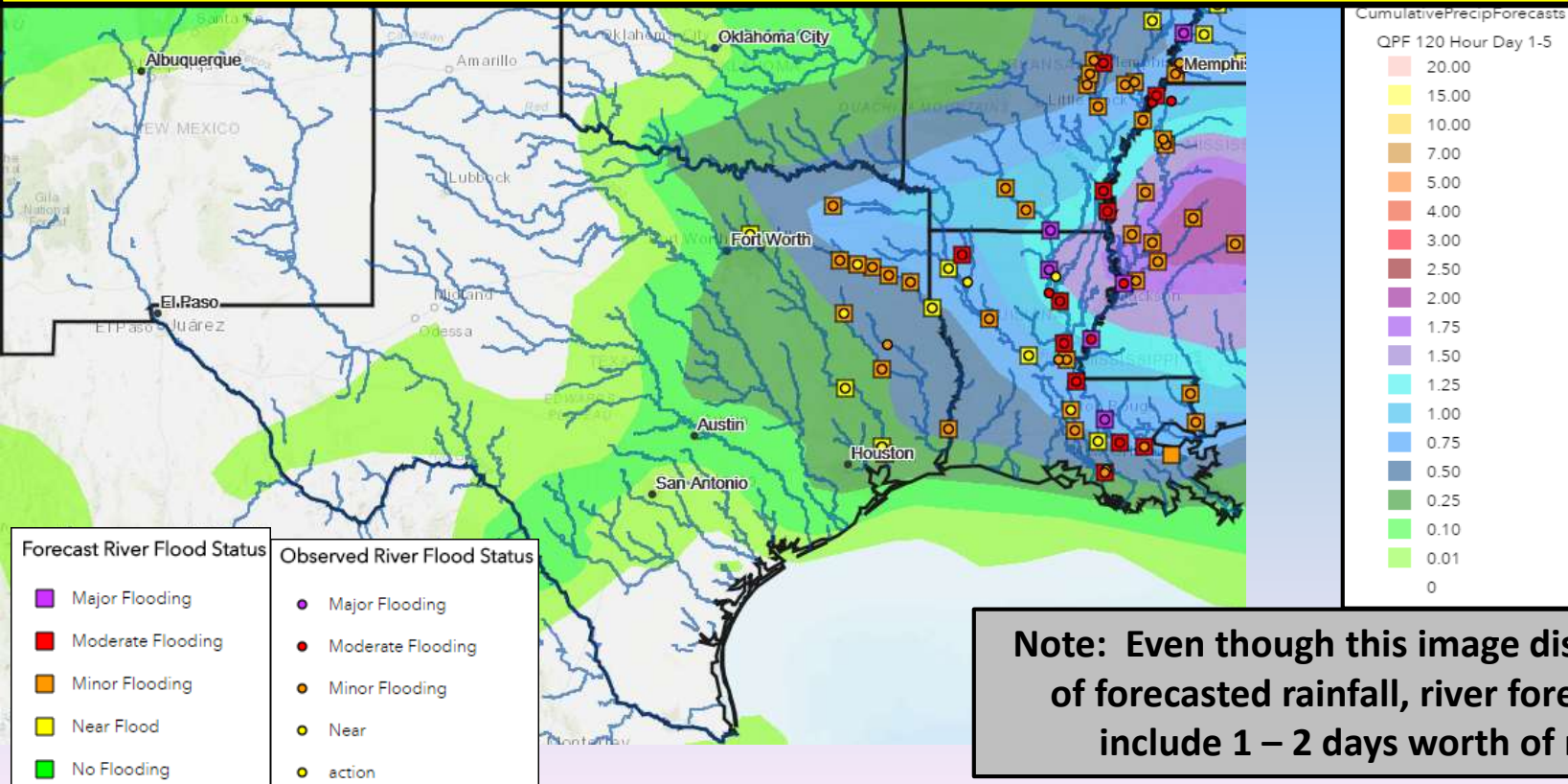
5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

Moderate to major flooding continues with rivers rising on the Ouachita River, MS River & Atchafalaya River in LA, SE AR:

- The crest at Morgan City, LA is expected to reach 8 feet (Moderate Flood Stage) on March 23.
- The Ouachita River at Columbia Lock and Dam in LA is not expected to crest until Saturday, March 17 at 69 ft. (2 ft. above moderate flood stage).
- The Ouachita River at Felsenthal Lock and Dam in AR is now falling.
- The Mississippi River at Helena, AR continues to fall. The river at Helena is expected to fall below flood stage by the evening of March 18th.

Minor to moderate flooding continues with rivers receding in E TX, NW LA and S & NE AR.

The Bonnet Carre spillway was opened March 8th, which will relieve any potential flooding on the extreme Lower MS River.



Note: Even though this image displays 5 days of forecasted rainfall, river forecasts only include 1 – 2 days worth of rainfall.

See <http://water.weather.gov/ahps> for the latest on river flooding



Mississippi River Crest Watch

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 14, 2018

f NWSLMRFC

🐦 @NWSLMRFC





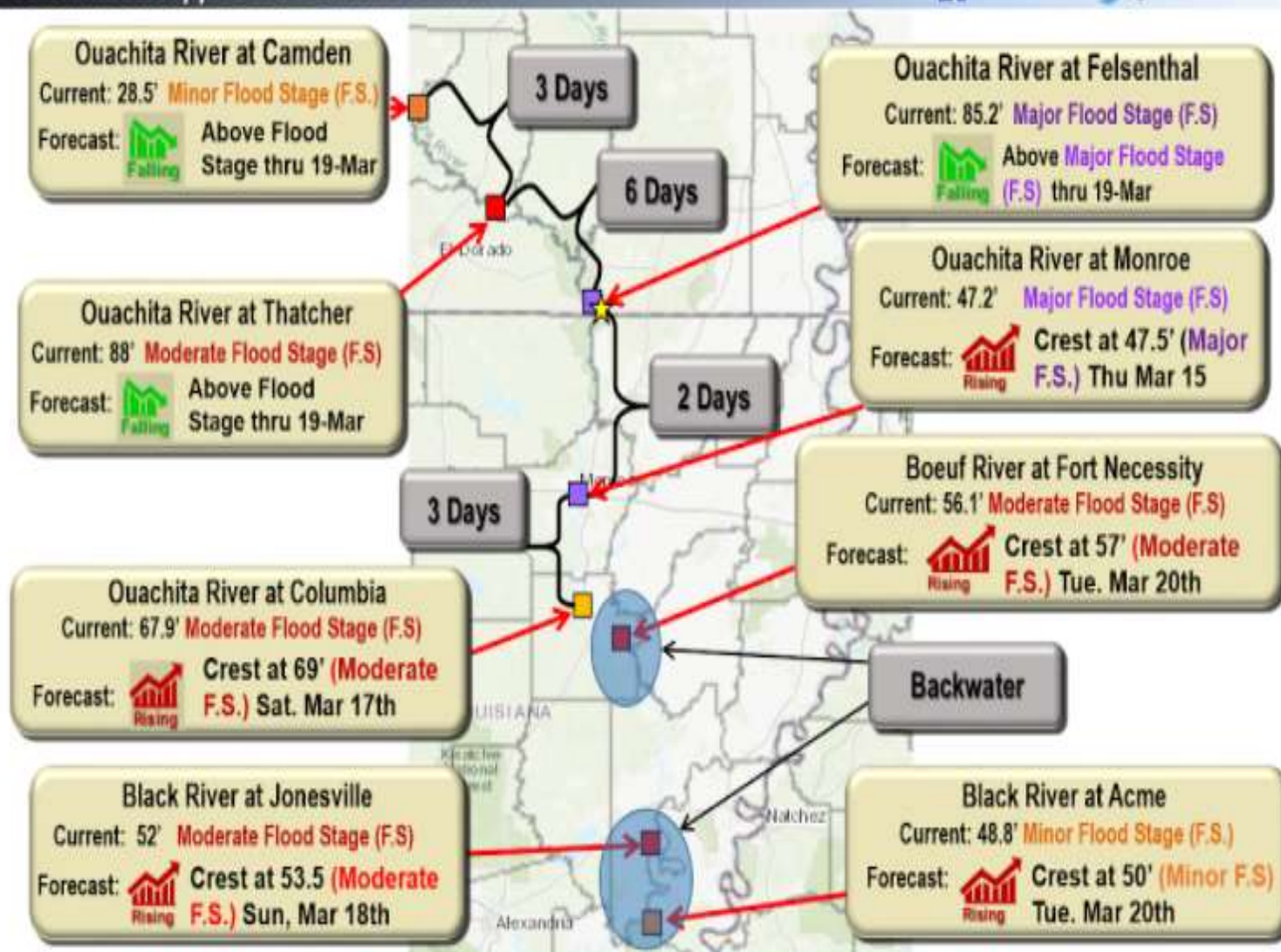
Ouachita River Crest Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts
produced morning of March 14, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC





Atchafalaya River Crest Watch

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

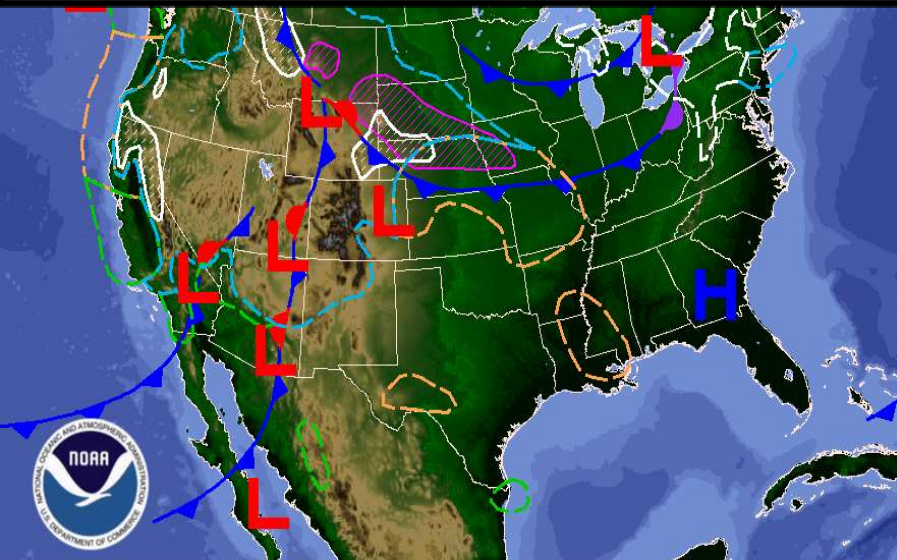
Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced
morning of March 14, 2018



Old River Control Structure
 Forecast assumes no operation at Morganza

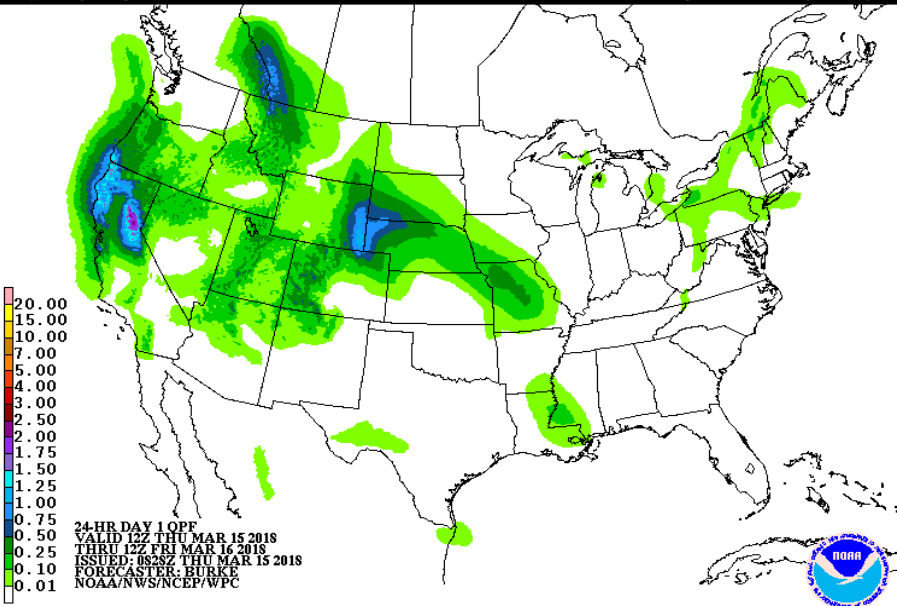
Backwater - Water moving upstream from Old River Control Structure

Today's Weather



Day 1 National Forecast Chart
Valid Thu, Mar 15, 2018, issued 5:14 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

Critical Fire Weather Conditions in E NM, TX/OK Panhandles, Upper Trans-Pecos & W OK.

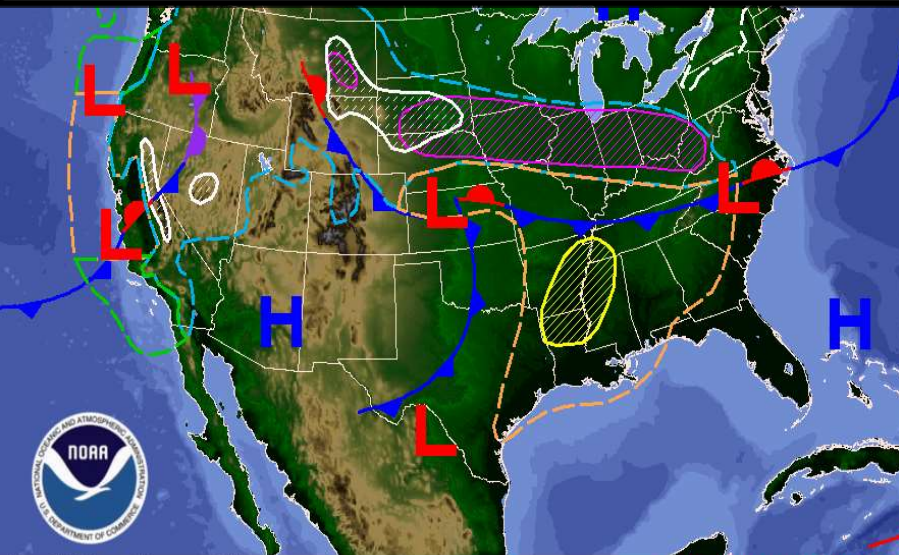
Highlighted Area: TEMA Region 8

Severe Weather Outlook Thursday, March 15, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 15 2018 1259 AM CDT
Valid until: Mar 16 2018 0700 AM CDT



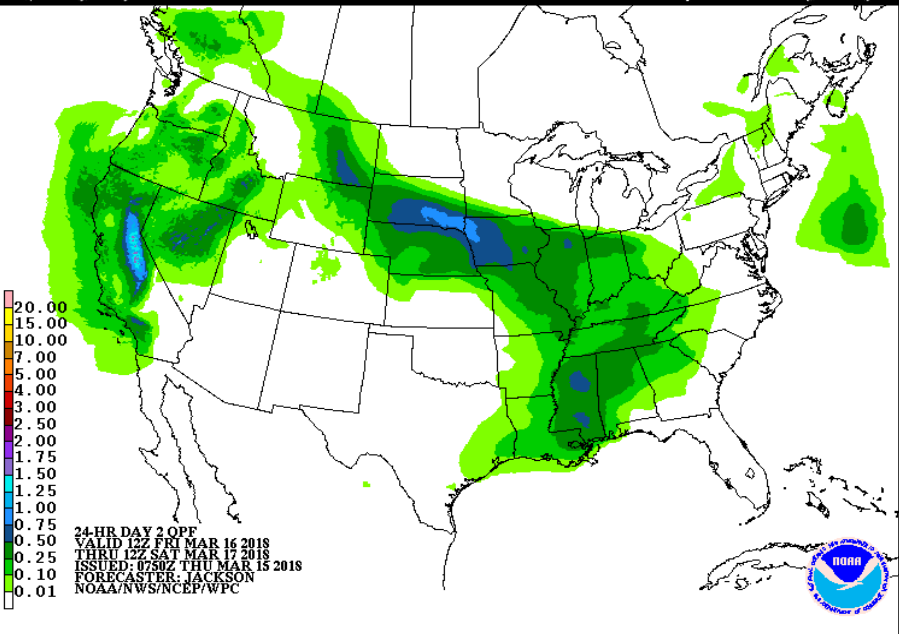
Tomorrow's Weather



Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Mar 16, 2018, issued 5:17 AM EDT Thu, Mar 15, 2018
 DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
 Prepared by Moreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
 Rain and T'Storms
 Rain and Snow
 Snow
 Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
 Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
 Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
 Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

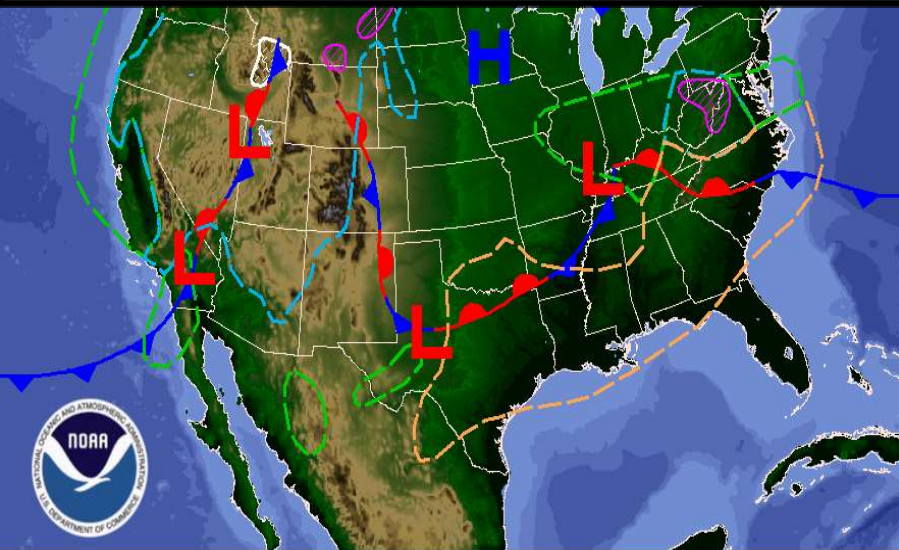
Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

Critical Fire Weather Conditions in E NM, TX/OK Panhandles, W&Cntrl OK, & W TX.

Slight Risk of severe thunderstorms across N LA and S AR. Damaging winds, hail and isolated tornadoes are the main threats.



Saturday's Weather



Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

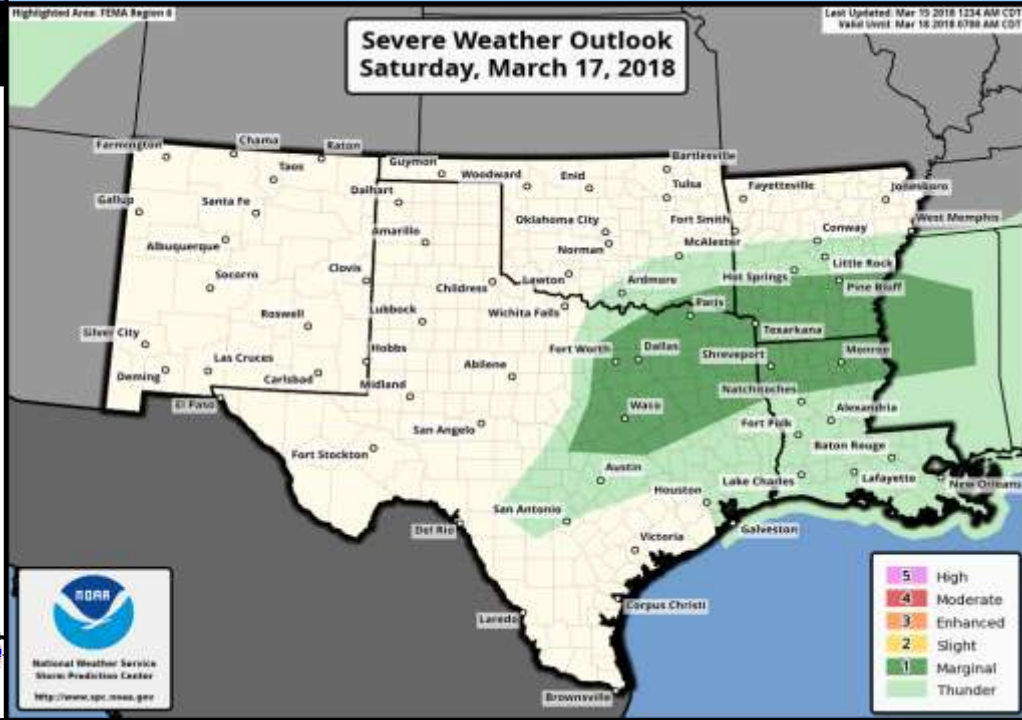
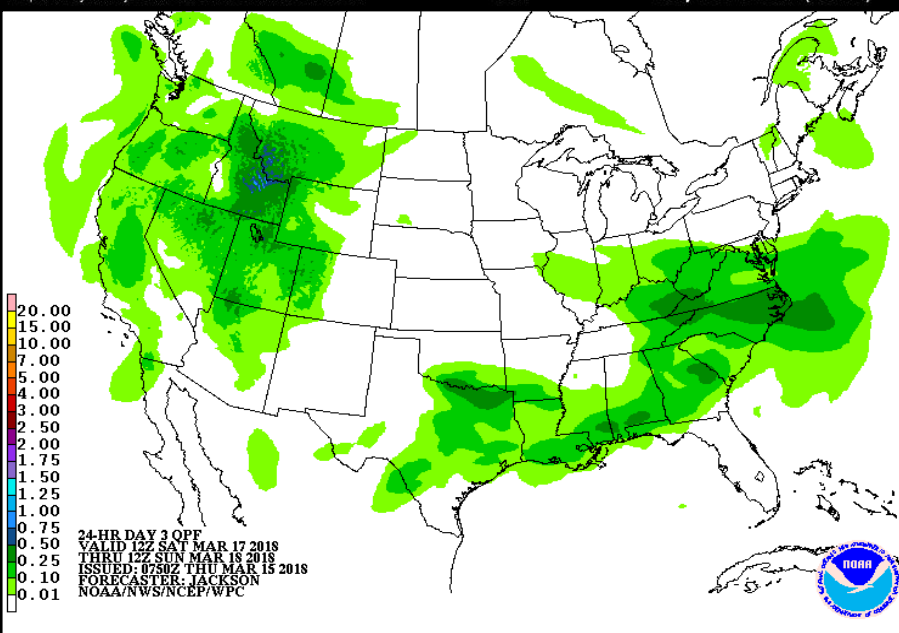
Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

Strong Thunderstorms will be possible across NE TX, SE OK, S AR and N LA. Hail will be the main threat.

Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Mar 17, 2018, issued 5:19 AM EDT Thu, Mar 15, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)









Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

Sunday - Monday



**Critical
Fire Weather
Conditions
Sunday**

**Critical
Fire Weather
Conditions
Sunday**

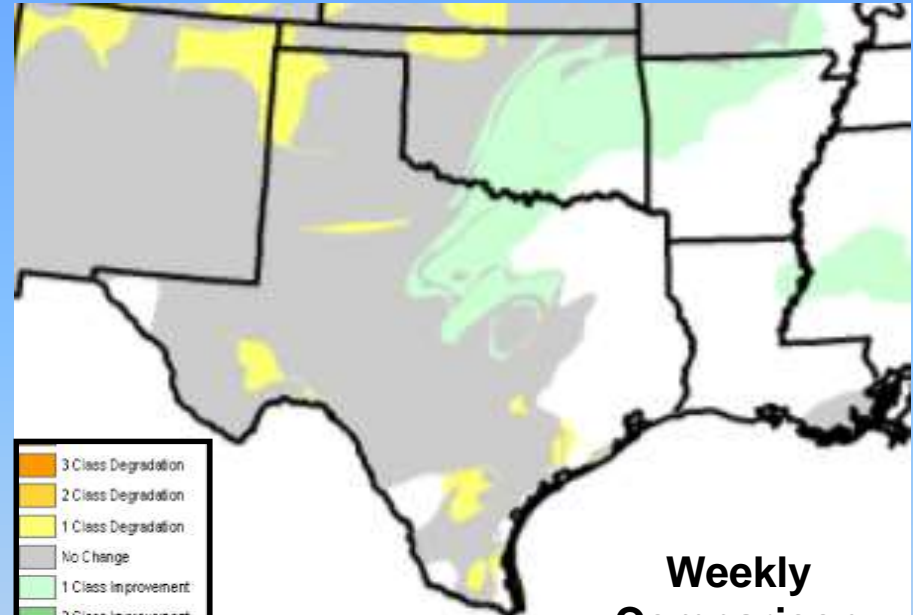
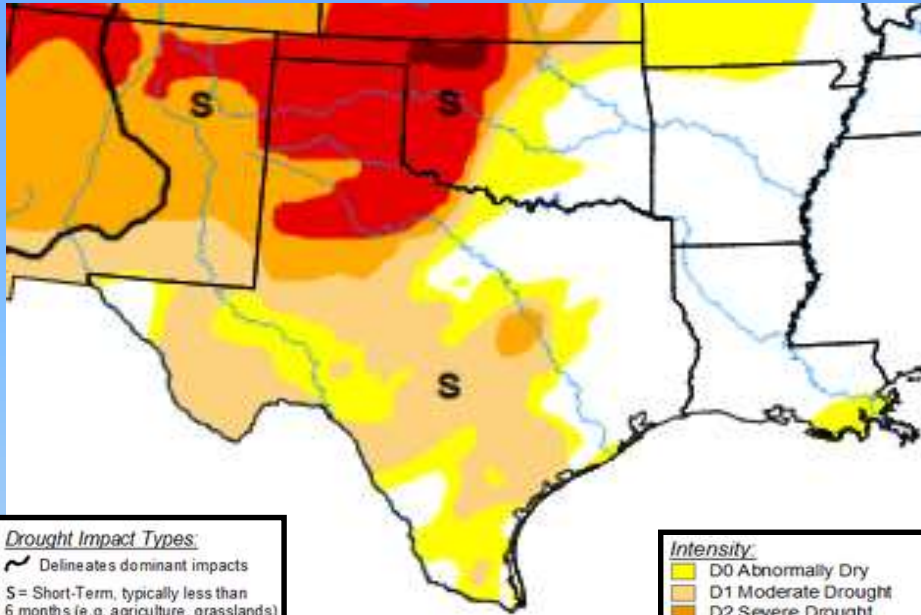
	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

*Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.



Drought Monitor Released March 15, 2018

Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, March 13, 2018



Weekly
Comparison

Drought Impact Types:
~ Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

3 Class Degradation
2 Class Degradation
1 Class Degradation
No Change
1 Class Improvement
2 Class Improvement
3 Class Improvement

Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)

State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	0.00%	0.00%	42.40%	2.00%
Louisiana	0.00%	0.00%	7.07%	0.00%
Oklahoma	34.93%	34.45%	3.12%	3.17%
Texas	14.19%	14.16%	0.76%	0.00%
New Mexico	25.50%	17.08%	0.00%	0.00%

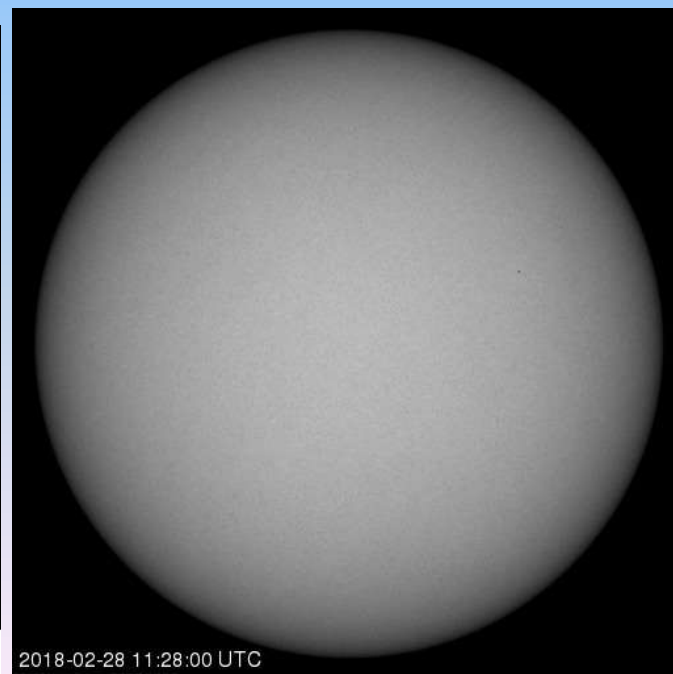
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Geomagnetic Storms	Unsettled to Active (Max Kp = 5)	Unsettled to Active (Max Kp = 4)	Unsettled to Active (Max Kp = 4)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



Normal X-ray Background
Product Valid At : 2018-03-15 10:21 UTC

Normal Proton Background
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

Information provided by:



National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

Phone: (682) 703-3747 ***New Direct Number**
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

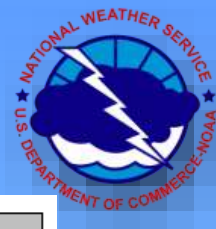
facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSSouthern>

twitter

@NWS_Southern_US https://twitter.com/NWS_Southern_US

The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov.



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	Very Common Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX
Yellow	Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail
Orange	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected
Red	Rare – Once every 1-5 Years Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue
Purple	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms